

Creating multi-purpose archive materials:

A case study from the languages of northern Ambrym, Vanuatu



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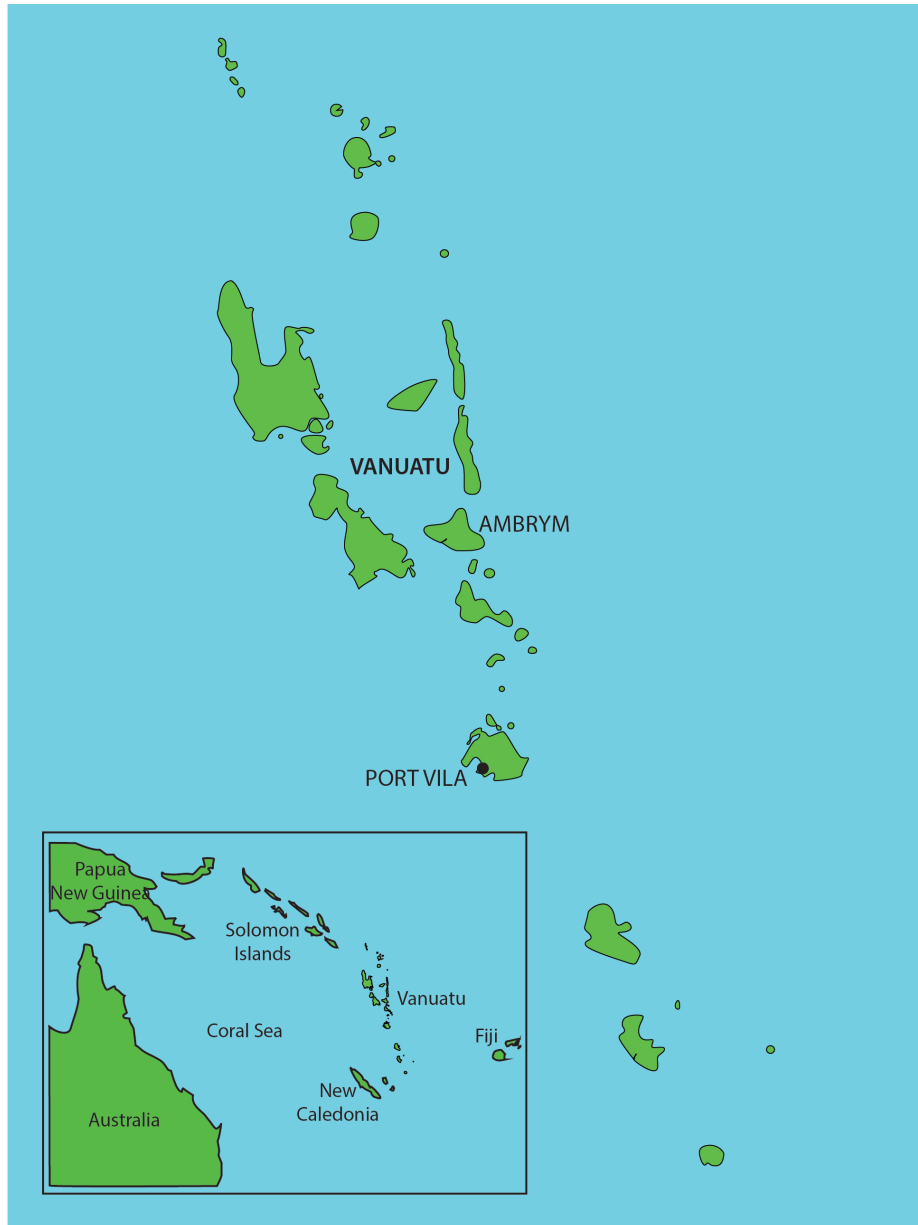


Overview

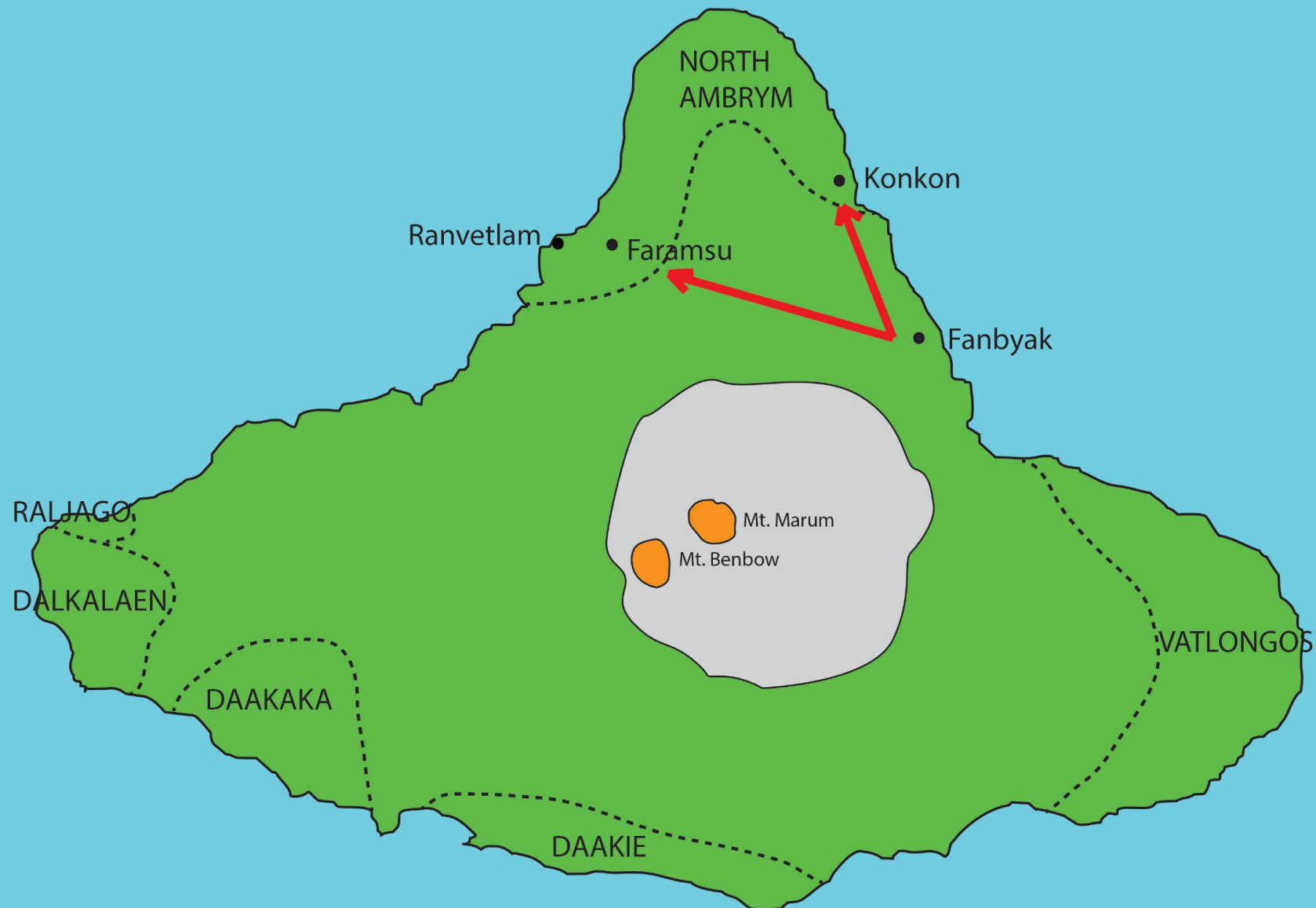
- The languages of northern Ambrym
- The Archived Collection
- Archive review
- Current Projects
 - The Breadfruit of northern Ambrym
 - The Birds of northern Ambrym
- Concluding remarks

The languages of Vanuatu

- Population: 272,459 (VNSO 2016)
- Languages: 138 (François et al. 2016)
- English, French and Bislama are official languages



The languages of northern Ambrym



North Ambrym: 3156
(VNSO 2016)

Fanbyak: 130
(Franjeh 2019)

The Archived Collection

- <https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1143013>
- ELDP: Language Documentation of North Ambrym & PhD Thesis & 2009 – 2012.
- ELDP: Language Documentation of Fanbyak. 2015-2017.
- Christensen Fund: Vernacular literacy and teacher training project for North Ambrym. 2013-2014.
- Vanuatu Education Sector Program (VESP): Vernacular literacy development workshops for languages of Ambrym and Paama. 2016.
- German Research Foundation: MelaTAMP Project (Kilu von Prince and Manfred Krifka). 2017.

The Archived Materials

- North Ambrym:
 - 20 hours of Video (6 hours annotated ELAN/FLEEx)
 - 50 hours of Audio (3 hours annotated ELAN/FLEEx)
- Fanbyak:
 - 5 hours of Video (3 ½ hours annotated ELAN/FLEEx)
 - 22 hours of Audio (2 hours annotated ELAN/FLEEx)
- Copious amounts of pictures, dictionary, literacy materials
- How do we cut through the noise?
- Curated archives (Woodbury 2014)

Collection Review

- Create a dialogue with potential users
 - What is useful?
 - What can be improved?
 - What do they need?
- Ethno-mathematician - Eric Vandendriessche, CNRS Paris
- Ethno-ornithologist - Andrew Gosler, Cambridge
- Anthropologist - Hugo DeBlok, Ghent University
- Ethno-linguist - Ebany Dohle, SOAS, London

Collection Review

Zoological/Botanical Information

- How was the data collected?
- Has the plant/animal names been identified by a specialist?
- Identify as taxonomically deep as you can
- State explicitly that you are open to collaboration

Collection Review

Anthropological/ethnolinguistic Information

- Details on sociolinguistic variation
- Which cultural events use what form of language?
- Information about Etymology
- Detailed definitions of key cultural terms / special vocabulary

Collection Review

General Outcomes

- Genre guides are good, but not enough! (c.f. Woodbury 2014)
 - Guides for specific users
 - Step-by-step guides on how to navigate
 - Discipline specific tags/keywords
- ELAN not very user friendly

Multi-purpose Materials

Breadfruit



Birds





Why Breadfruit?

- Legacy Materials
- Murray first Missionary to northern Ambrym
- Catechism (1886)
- Varieties of Breadfruit, New Hebrides (1894)

“Each part of the tree has a very specific use, e.g., leaves in medicine, trunk for timber, male flowers against mosquitoes, latex to catch birds, and some secret parts in “black magic”. ”
Navarro et al. (2007: 81)

VARIETIES OF BREADFRUIT, NEW HEBRIDES.

By REV. C. MURRAY, M.A.

A LIST of varieties of breadfruit as gleaned from the Natives in and around the Native village of Rauon, situated near Rodd's anchorage, on the north-west of Ambrim, New Hebrides, and submitted for the *Journal* in the hope that an article so universal as breadfruit may elicit linguistic affinities among the peoples of other islands.

Breadfruit—general term—*Beta*.

Breadfruit tree=Lib'ta, for Liye or Li-beta. Liye=tree, and is prefixed to the name of every tree. Ex. Libolva=the Hibiscus. Li mri=ironwood tree. Li ol=cocoanut tree.

VARIETIES (GENERIC TERM, BÉTA):

Bet(a') árbol.	Betá lolau.	45 Béta tabo.
Bet' ándum.	Béta lowon barbar.	Béta tabanga.
Béta basivir.	25 Béta loliasau.	Béta tyintyin.
Béta bwehe.	Béta kolvaro.	Béta taluwo.
5 Béta bwise.	Betá-mnang.	Béta titye.
Béta betáíye.	Betá myir.	50 Bet(a') úbwere.
Betá dyu.	Béta meriul.	Bet(a') úbweterenu.
Béta for.	30 Béta mir.	Béta wonwon.
Betá fáne.	Béta misisir.	Béta worara.
10 Béta fira.	Béta man.	Béta wahin.
Béta fanhor.	Béta meraul.	55 Béta wobólva.
Béta ngáfon.	Bet(a') óregal.	Béta woltóbo.
Betá hivil.	35 Betá nteiya.	Béta womririr.
Betá kēbir.	Béta robōrēri.	Béta wārūkon.
15 Betá karo.	Béta riring.	Béta we.
Béta kiki.	Béta sum.	60 Béta wómlālan.
Betá kēbir talonru.	Béta sibwhel.	Béta wómsu.
Betá kēbir tebanwíkye.	40 Béta siluam.	Béta wíllāli.
Béta larur.	Béta sibōbōr.	Béta yemyir.
20 Béta liding.	Béta satye.	Béta yal.
Betá lolo.	Béta sum kon.	65 Béta yemir.
Béta lorawawa.	Betá tye.	

In the above lists the vowels have the continental sound, but the consonants are assimilated to English pronunciation.—C. M.

Breadfruit for (Ethno)botanists

Mies (2009)

- Ambrym has largest number of terms for breadfruit
- Has the largest diversity of breadfruit morphotypes
- Resulted in a longer fruiting season to mitigate harsh volcanic climate

Breadfruit – for (Ethno)botanists

- Diane Ragone – Director of Breadfruit Institute in Hawai'i
- How to Photograph Breadfruit



Northern Ambrym Breadfruit Survey

- 8 morphotypes photographed
- Collected free-lists (Weller & Romney 1988)
- Collected TEK about each morphotype



Breadfruit – for other disciplines

- Breadfruit is culturally important
- Parts of tree used in traditional ceremonies
- Features in traditional stories
- Features in Sand Drawing



Breadfruit: Community Outputs

- Hand Drawn pictures for book
- Just-So story about Breadfruit
- Breadfruit Book

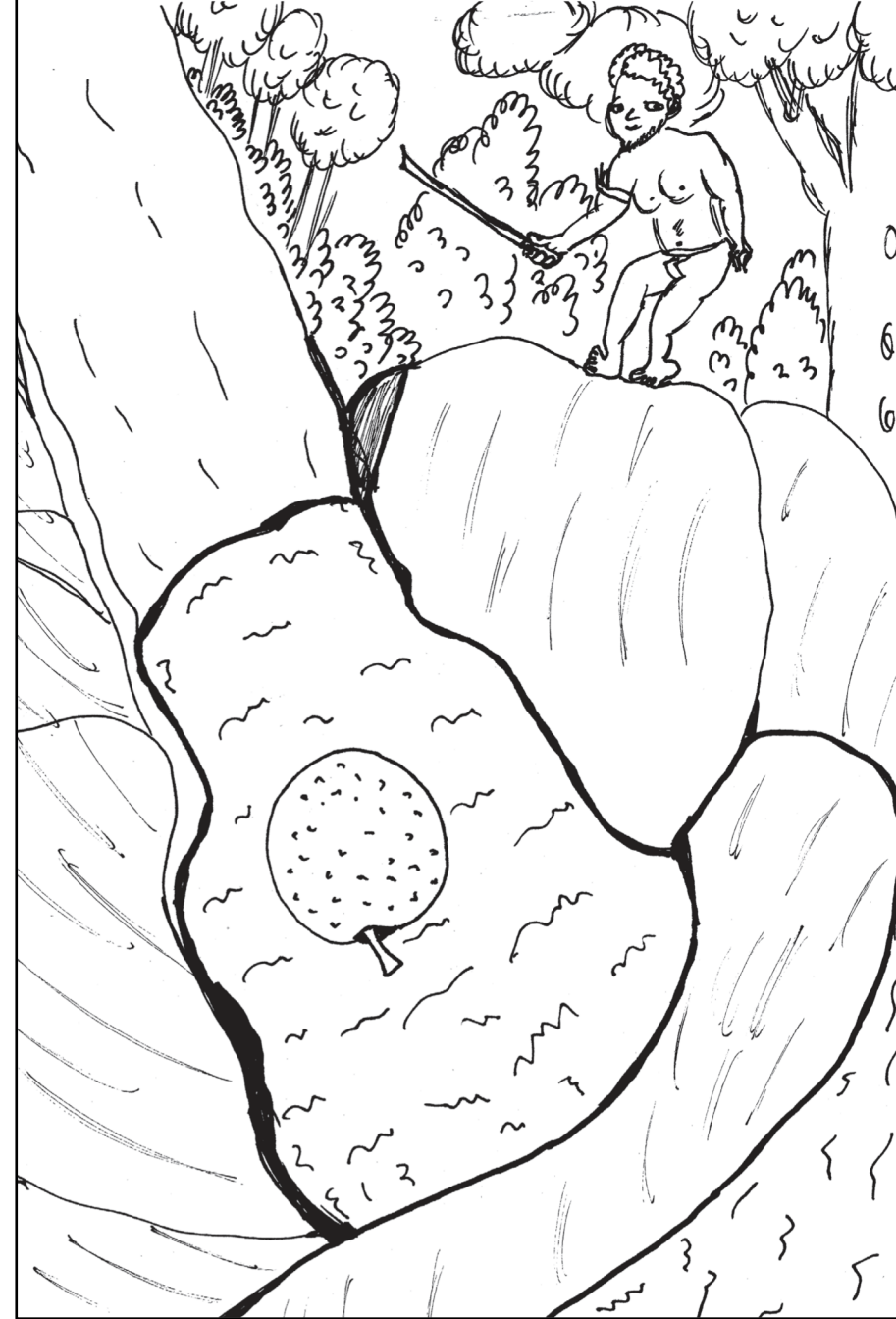
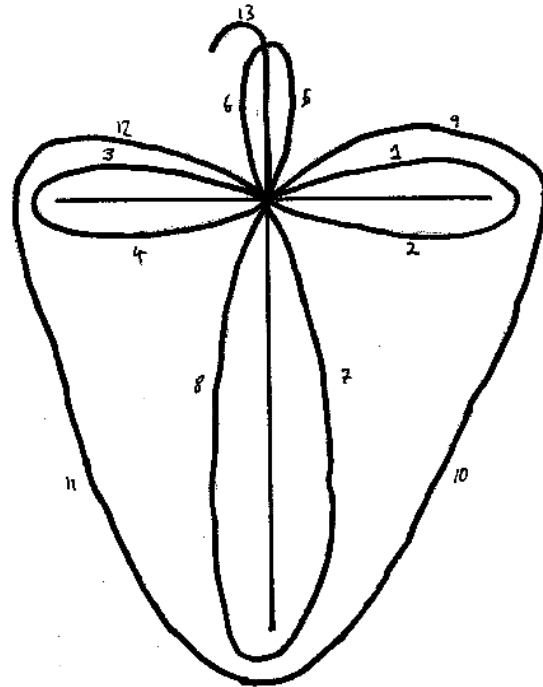


Illustration: Zakary Bong

Breadfruit – next stages

- Continue collecting photos and descriptions
- Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC) in Santo

”The long-term goal is to disseminate the best cultivars from this genebank throughout Vanuatu in order to promote this local food, maintain the diversity for future generations, prevent genetic erosion and enrich the orchards of villagers.” Navarro et al (2007: 81-82)

Birds of northern Ambrym

- 136 species in Vanuatu
- 35 species identified in northern Ambrym



Bird Identification

- Pictures of birds widely available
- Problems with identifying birds
 - Deceptively hard
 - Some are rarely seen
 - Some known only by their call. (c.f. Fleck 2007)
- Get really detailed info on birds and their habitat

The Breadfruit bird

- Same species – different terms:

Wereurebta meleng

‘male Melanesian flycatcher’

Wereurebta vehen/wagorr??

‘female Melanesian flycatcher’



Birds Identification

- Same name might be multiple species
 - *Bwar* 'plover, sandpiper, tattler?'
 - Identified for seven different species



common sandpiper



grey-tailed tattler



lesser sandplover

Ethno-ornithology

- Deposit in EWA : Ethno-Ornithology World Archive
- Subset of archive can be deposited in EWA to directly attract other researchers



“EWA is founded on the recognition that humans everywhere are inspired culturally, practically and spiritually by birds. We collect culturally relevant knowledge of birds, including local and traditional ecological knowledge...”

Birds – for other disciplines

- Birds are culturally important
- Birds are symbolic
- Feature in:
 - traditional stories
 - Songs
 - Slit drums – Breadfruit again!
 - dances
 - ceremonies
 - Sand Drawing
 - String Figures





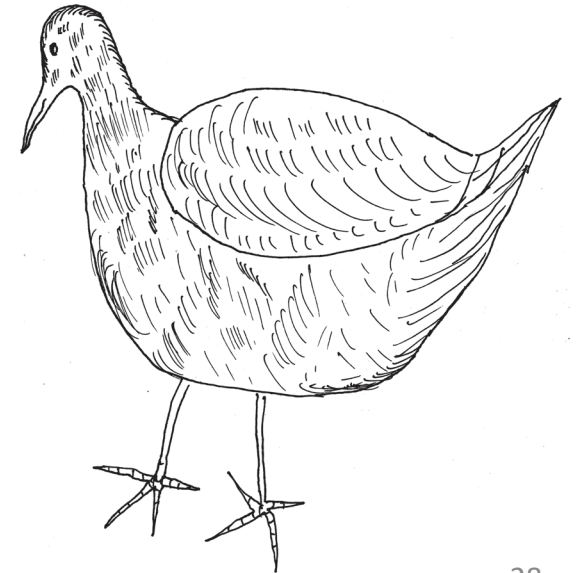
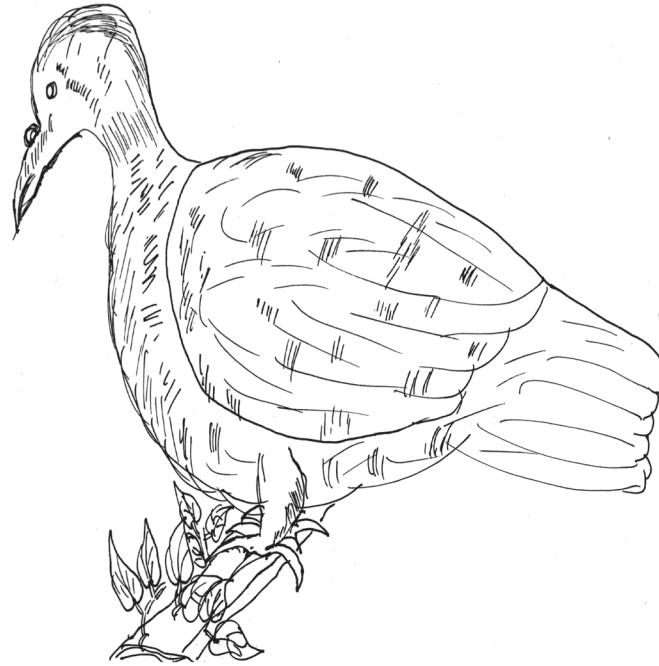
Ethno-Mathematics

- Detailed descriptions of how these drawings/figures are created
- Large variation
- More information on:
 - Names of the different moves
 - Online commentary
 - String figures difficult to follow!



Birds – Community Outputs

- Bird Book
- Includes details of:
 - Visual appearance
 - Habitat description
 - Egg description
 - Cultural information



Concluding Remarks

- Contact the experts!
- Metadata and keywords are the most important
- Multiple keywords
 - Bird, Emerald dove, *Chalcophaps indica*.
 - Grass, wild cane, *Miscanthus floridulus*.
 - Botany, zoology, ornithology, anthropology, community?
- Genre guides
- Academic field-guides – aimed at specific fields.
- Asking for other academics to look at your data is also great way of advertising it.
- Deposit subsets of data in targeted archives

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